In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A nucleic acid construct for suppressing expression of a target gene [expression], comprising:

an antisense nucleic acid sequence directed to a target gene of interest;

an unmodified, naturally occurring 5' U snRNA 5' of said antisense nucleic acid sequence stem loop structure;

[an antisense nucleic acid; and]

a pol II promoter region 5' of said antisense nucleic acid sequence ; and

3' of said antisense region an unmodified, naturally occurring 3' U snRNA stem loop structure [.], wherein said expression of said target gene is suppressed by at least 75% of the normal level of expression.

Please cancel claim 2.

2. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein the stem loop structures are unmodified U snRNA structures.

3. (Amended) The nucleic acid construct of claim [2] 1, wherein the U snRNA is U1.

Please cancel claim 4.

4. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, further comprising a promoter.

5. (Amended) The nucleic acid construct of claim [4] 1, wherein the promoter is a U1 snRNA promoter.

6. (Amended) The nucleic acid construct of claim [4] 1, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

7. (Amended) The nucleic acid construct of claim [4] 1, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.

8. (Reiterated) The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, further comprising a ribozyme nucleic acid.

9. (Reiterated) The nucleic acid construct of claim 8, wherein the ribozyme nucleic acid is located between the 5' and 3' loop structures.

10. (Reiterated) The nucleic acid construct of claim 8, wherein the ribozyme nucleic acid is a hammerhead-type ribozyme.

11. (Reiterated) The nucleic acid construct of claim 8, wherein a consensus sequence for ribozyme cleavage in a target nucleic acid is 5'-GUC-3' or 5'-GUA-3'.

12. (Amended) The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein the antisense nucleic acid is targeted to a region of a gene is selected from the group consisting of rent-1, HPV E6, HIV, hyaluronic acid synthase, and fibrillin.

13. (Amended) A method for suppression of gene expression comprising administering to a cell a suppressive-effective amount of the nucleic acid construct of claim 1[. whereby expression of the gene is suppressed].

Please cancel claim 14.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the administering is in vivo.

15. (Reiterated) The method of claim 13, wherein the administering is *in vitro.*

Please cancel claim 16.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the administering is ex vivo.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

administering a [modified] second nucleic acid encoding a wild-type polypeptide

corresponding to the gene product of the gene being suppressed, wherein the [modified] second nucleic acid is resistant to ribozyme cleavage and/or antisense inhibition.

Please cancel claims 18 and 19.

18. A transgenic animal having the nucleic acid construct of claim 1.

19. A knock-out animal produced utilizing the nucleic acid construct of claim 1.

Please add new claim 20:

--20. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, further comprising a 5' trimethylguanosine cap.--

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15, 17, and 20 are pending. Claims 2, 4, 14, 18, and 19 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant retains the right to pursue these claims in a later filed divisional or continuation application. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 12, 13, and 17 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 and recite the use of "naturally occurring" stem loop structures. Support for this language can be found on page 7, line 12-14. Claim 1 has been amended to set forth the degree of gene suppression. Support for the amending language can be found on page 15, line 8. Claim 1 has also been limited by the inclusion of an "operatively associated pol II regulatory nucleotide sequence." Support for the amending language can be found on page 11, lines 22 to page 13, line 2). Claims 3, 5, 6, and 7 have been amended to change their dependency from a canceled claim. Claim 12 has been